

The Arizona Voters' Agenda

Centering the Priorities of Arizonans in Our Elections to Achieve The Arizona We Want

To elect leaders aligned to their priorities, Arizonans deserve the opportunity to decide who to vote for based on knowing where candidates stand on the issues they deem most important to the state's future.

Center for the Future of Arizona (CFA) developed the Arizona Voters' Agenda from new survey research of Republican, Democratic, and independent/unaffiliated voters of all ages. The Agenda only includes what a majority of likely voters across all political affiliations and age groups say are the critical issues facing the state and makes clear that most voters agree on what they value and want from their political leaders.

The Arizona Voters' Agenda builds on CFA's longstanding survey research efforts to identify what matters most to Arizonans and puts the voices of likely Arizona voters at the forefront. The results counter the narrative of division and polarization that dominates political dialogue and provide candidates and the media an opportunity to reframe the election around what Arizonans agree on and care about for our state.

Arizona Voters' Agenda

What the majority of Arizona's likely voters want candidates to address as they compete for their votes in the 2022 election

KEY FINDINGS

- Nearly two-thirds of all likely voters will choose candidates based on their plans and where they stand on key issues.
- Despite polarized political dialogue, there is significant agreement and common ground among voters on many public policy issues.
- Voters care strongly about many issues not being addressed or discussed thus far in the election. Their priorities include education, immigration, economy, and environment.



Education

Policy Items	Strongly Support	Total Support
Ensuring that Arizona schools have quality teachers and principals.	89%	97%
Expanding career and technical education opportunities.	78%	97%
Increasing teacher pay.	72%	88%
Increasing the number of Arizona students who pursue and complete education or training beyond high school (including university, community college, or technical/trade school).	70%	94%
Increasing funding for K-12 public education.	65%	82%
Reducing financial barriers for students going to college.	58%	80%
Closing gaps in educational outcomes for vulnerable populations, including low-income, those with disabilities, and English language learners.	58%	83%
Increasing access and affordability of early learning for three and four-year-olds.	52%	78%

Value Statements	Strongly Support	Total Support
Every school should have the resources necessary to deliver quality education that prepares every child for the future, no matter their skin color, background, or zip code.	88%	97%
Closing achievement gaps among our students is important to ensuring our state can produce the skilled workforce necessary for a strong economic future for Arizona.	61%	86%

Economy & Inflation

Policy Items	Strongly Support	Total Support
Supporting Arizona's long-term economic growth.	76%	95%
Addressing inflation.	75%	92%
Addressing rising costs.	69%	88%
Reducing gas prices.	69%	87%
Increasing housing affordability.	68%	88%
Increasing job creation and business investment.	67%	92%

Value Statements	Strongly Support	Total Support
In regards to Arizona's budget surplus: Instead of continuing to cut taxes, we should be increasing funding for education, public safety, roads, and other critical investments that will boost our long-term economic growth.	54%	82%
When you compare Arizona to other states across the country, our tax burden is relatively low. Everyone should pay their fair share of taxes to ensure that the state can continue to meet its core obligations.	51%	84%

Water

Policy Items	Strongly Support	Total Support
Securing Arizona's water future and addressing our long-term drought.	83%	95%
Preserving and protecting Arizona's rivers, natural areas, and wildlife.	80%	96%

Value Statements	Strongly Support	Total Support
We need to do something to protect our water future and secure our long-term water supplies.	74%	94%
We must support sustainable practices that protect our air, land, and water, and foster a high quality of life for all.	65%	90%

Environment

Policy Items	Strongly Support	Total Support
Preserving and protecting Arizona's rivers, natural areas, and wildlife.	80%	96%
Increasing investments and measures to prevent forest fires on state land.	71%	93%
Improving air quality.	62%	88%

Value Statement	Strongly Support	Total Support
We must support sustainable practices that protect our air, land, and water, and foster a high quality of life for all.	65%	90%

Election Reform

Policy Items	Strongly Support	Total Support
Ensuring that all candidates, regardless of party affiliation, have the same signature requirements to qualify for a particular elected office.	67%	87%
Offering early in-person voting over multiple weeks leading up to Election Day.	55%	74%

Value Statement	Strongly Support	Total Support
We can do more to secure our elections system and protect it from outside interference and fraudulent voting. At the same time, we must make sure that it remains easy to vote – and not create barriers to participation that disproportionately hurt certain communities.	61%	87%

Immigration

Policy Items	Strongly Support	Total Support
Creating a functioning border for commerce and immigration.	64%	87%
Creating a pathway to citizenship for DACA recipients and dreamers who were brought to Arizona as children.	61%	83%
Enacting comprehensive immigration reform that includes a pathway to citizenship.	60%	81%

Value Statement	Strongly Support	Total Support
Immigration reform will ultimately strengthen the country. Mexico is Arizona’s largest trading partner; we need to get serious about supporting comprehensive immigration reform because it will strengthen our economy and promote border security.	53%	81%

What Makes the Agenda?

The Arizona Voters’ Agenda is built on where a majority of likely voters across political and age groups agree and reflects what they care about most. Issues on the Arizona Voters’ Agenda meet **all of** the following criteria:

- “Strongly Agree/Support” is 50% and above among All Likely Voters
- The sum of “Somewhat Agree/Support” and “Strongly Agree/Support” (i.e., Total Support) is 50% and above among every political affiliation and age group surveyed

Big Questions for Candidates

The Arizona Voters' Agenda findings illuminate “big questions” for candidates based on where voters have the strongest agreement. We encourage candidates to answer the call, and moderators, members of the press, citizens, and local voters to foster productive dialogue and seek out real answers.

Education

What is your plan to ensure that Arizona students have quality teachers and principals?

Water

What should Arizona do to protect our water future and secure our long-term water supplies?

Election Reform

What should Arizona do to keep our elections secure while preventing barriers to participation?

Economy & Inflation

What do you think the state should do with the growing surplus?

Environment

What sustainable practices should continue and be implemented to protect Arizona's air, land, and water, and foster a high quality of life for all?

Immigration

How do you define a functioning border for commerce, and what is your vision for immigration reform?

What Didn't Make the Arizona Voters' Agenda?

The Arizona Voters' Agenda survey covered a wide array of issues and topics, and the following issues did NOT reach the level of support among likely voters necessary to be included:

- Opposing the teaching of critical race theory and controversial topics.
- Reducing income taxes.
- Eliminating mail-in voting.
- Changing the law to require those who vote by mail to provide their driver's license number or voter ID number in order for their vote to count.
- Completing the wall on the border between the United States and Mexico.

Find survey details and political and age group breakdowns at arizonafuture.org/arizonavotersagenda.